

# appnotes

## DAY 1 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9

1

Hotels, restaurants, and new homes are some of the on-going construction projects throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. The finished buildings will look different, serve diverse purposes, and take various lengths of time to complete. But they all have one thing in common: each project needs an entire crew to make it happen. Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and even interior decorators work for months until the building meets the specs and plans of the designer. Each worker is necessary. In today's reading, Paul uses the analogy of farming to make the same point. We are all fellow workers in what God is building. Don't ever think your contribution is not necessary or beneficial! Today there is someone in your sphere of influence who needs help, encouragement, or prayer. Be ready to add your piece to God's grand project of helping people find the way back to God!

## DAY 2 READ MATTHEW 5:13-16

2

Have you ever been on a cave tour? Partway through the tour the guide turns out the lights. At that moment, you experience a darkness that is very deep and very oppressive. It makes you want to escape! Jesus tells us in this passage that the church is the light the world needs to see. If we hesitate to speak the truth about God, it is like we left our helmets and lanterns outside the cave! We must live in such a way that the world sees God in us. We should connect with the world, but we shouldn't allow ourselves to become contaminated by the world, for then we are as useless as salt that has lost its flavor. It's a fine line to walk – being in the world but not like the world. But it's a line we need to walk because we want others to find the hope we have in Christ!

## DAY 3 READ 1 PETER 3:13-18

3

Have you noticed that our culture does not always respond well to the Christian message? Sometimes the people we encounter mock and ridicule us. In the passage we read today, Peter is talking to believers who are dealing with more than ridicule. Their very lives are threatened for what they believe. Peter encourages them to stand strong and act rightly even when they are being persecuted. It is a message we need to hear in our day and age. Even when we are mocked, ridiculed, ostracized, or passed over for promotion, we need to stand ready to defend what we know to be true: God created this world, He loves the people in it, and He sent His Son to die to rescue it! Speak with gentleness and grace, and perhaps we can help the people who mock us, join us in the family of God!

## DAY READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

4

If the President of the United States hosts a State dinner, ambassadors from countries around the world show up in their tuxedos and ball gowns and eat the finest food Washington, D.C. can produce. Everyone in that banquet hall represents the country that sent them. They're building relationships during peacetime so that the ambassadors of the two countries might bring about peace and reconciliation if, heaven forbid, their country and ours go to war. In our sin, we were at war with God. Paul tells us in this passage that after we were rescued we have become ambassadors for God. We are to say what our King has approved in the way He approves. Do people see the overwhelming love of God in the way you talk to them about faith?

## DAY READ ACTS 16:1-15

5

The holidays are around the corner, and soon we'll start cleaning and cooking and fretting over whether or not everything is in place. Often we hesitate to invite people over because we haven't straightened up, or we don't have time to prepare a gourmet meal. Lydia, the woman that Paul and his fellow-workers met in Thyatira, may not have had crab-stuffed mushrooms or a five-layer cake for dessert, but what she had she offered to others, even allowing her home to become the headquarters of the church in her hometown. Lydia had a heart of hospitality - the ability to make people feel special and welcome. God isn't asking us to prepare gourmet dinners or have a home worthy of a magazine cover. God only asks that we share what we do have, to encourage someone else to find the way back to God!

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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